

VZCZCXRO4512
PP RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHKU #0485 0941327
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 041327Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8693
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0836
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1776
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1036
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1380
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHKU/OMC-K KUWAIT KU

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000485

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE, SIPDIS

STATE FOR AIAG, NEA/ARP, NEA/RA; CAIRO FOR LINDA LOGAN
AMMAN FOR WHITTLESEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMED](#) [CASC](#) [KSCA](#) [SENV](#) [TBIO](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: KUWAIT AVIAN FLU UPDATE #7

Ref: Kuwait 332 and previous

1. (SBU) On April 3, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) announced that four Bangladeshi workers involved in Kuwait's cull of H5N1 Avian Influenza (AI) infected birds (see Update #6) were admitted to hospital with suspicious flu-like symptoms. It was not immediately clear if the workers are PAAAFR employees, work at one of the affected farms, or work for a company contracted to cull the birds. According to PAAAFR spokesman Ahmad Al-Shatti, although as many as 22 people have recently been hospitalized with similar symptoms, there is particular concern about these four since they had been in direct contact with infected fowl. Samples from the patients have been sent to a laboratory in the UK for testing.

2. (SBU) Officially, the total number of confirmed cases among poultry remains at 101. The PAAAFR has now culled more than 1.7 million birds from four farms in the Wafra area near the Saudi border.

3. (SBU) If confirmed, a human infection would be a significant event for Kuwait, and for Post. PAAAFR officials have said that test results for the four patients will not be available for at least three days, and Post's EAC is prepared to meet immediately following any confirmation.

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